

## **Dulce Isalguez Parker**

**Executive Director and Cultural Educator** 

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## **Biography**

Dulce is a Cultural Educator and the founder of Making Connections Inc. (aka Making Cultural Connections), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) cultural education organization created in 2001 in Dallas, Texas. She has many years of experience in working with multicultural communities. Her dedication in teaching and promoting the importance of cultural understanding, education, and instilling cultural pride in our youth are her passions. Her social work experiences, international travel, and love for the Arts and culture give her a unique perspective for providing cultural education training, parental involvement in schools, and youth leadership workshops. She is a U.S. Air Force veteran and has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe. She is a native of the Dominican Republic and also has traveled to Asia, Mexico, and other Caribbean Islands. Her work experiences and international travel have given her valuable skills to engage with multicultural communities. She uses Art and culture to help families value their diverse cultural heritages as strengths and to promote positive self-esteem in their children.

As Executive Director and Cultural Educator, she developed and conducted programs for children after school cultural enrichment, parental school involvement, and community multicultural awareness training. These programs have been presented in schools, Art and Cultural Centers, and Recreation/Youth Centers.

As a Cultural Education Consultant, she provided cultural diversity training, community outreach, staff development, parent education, and youth leadership programs for schools and community Art/Cultural organizations. She has been recognized in the media for her work in the community through newspaper articles & television highlights. Her programs have been presented at:

City of Dallas, Office of Cultural Affairs Community Cultural Programs; Dallas Independent School District; University of North Texas, Denton (Parent Involvement) & Dallas campus; Art Partners/Big Thought, Dallas, TX; Brookhaven Community College, Dallas, TX; Texas Education Agency Conferences; Florida State PTA - Board Parental Involvement Conference; National and Texas Bilingual Education (NABE & TABE) Conferences; and Verizon's Cross Cultural Training.

## Other Work Experiences:

- Dallas Independent School District Parental Involvement Specialist and Consultant
- City of Dallas Health and Human Services Department Social Worker and Health Educator
- City of Dallas Police Department Youth Counselor
- Texas Department of Child Protective Services Social Work/Case Manager
- Training Coordinator for Education & Employment Programs, Junior College, Temple, TX

Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work, Florida International University, Miami, FL.; Bilingual (English – Spanish)

- Owner/Designer: "Dulce P Caribbean Gifts", Jewelry Maker, Caribbean Semiprecious Stones
- Member: National Association Latino Arts & Culture (NALAC)
- Member: WoVeN, Women Veterans Network national organization
- Member: American Legion Post 1799, Haymarket, Virginia
- Member: Founding Community Advisory Committee, Latino Cultural Center, Dallas, Texas
- Co-founder: "La Sociedad Cultural Dominicana, Dallas/Forth Worth, Texas